



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

BM06:040

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Contact: Jennifer Kerns
916-653-6575

Major Jon Siepmann
CA National Guard
916-854-3270

Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Joins CA National Guard to Unveil New Overseas Ballot

Secretary McPherson stresses importance of ensuring Military and Overseas Voters have their vote counted

SACRAMENTO, CA - Today Secretary of State Bruce McPherson joined with the California National Guard to announce a new, user-friendly ballot for California's Military and Overseas Voters (MOV). He also reminded county registrars that this Friday, April 7, marks 60 days before the June Primary Election, upon which counties may begin to send California's Military and Overseas Voters their requested ballots.

"More than 2,000 brave men and women of the California National Guard are overseas preserving our right to vote this year, and it is important that they are also afforded the opportunity to cast their own vote," said Secretary McPherson. "Today, I am introducing a new user-friendly ballot that will allow California's military and citizens who live overseas to cast their ballot easily and in a timely manner, so that their vote counts."

The new overseas ballot appears in a more generic, user-friendly format that allows Military and Overseas Voters to simply write in the candidate and office for which they are voting. This eliminates the need for each county to coordinate a separate ballot for faxing, reduces administrative work, and aims to help expedite the casting of overseas ballots.

Joining Secretary McPherson in his announcement today were top brass of the California National Guard, including: Major General William H. Wade, II, Adjutant General and highest-ranking member of the California National Guard; Brigadier General Mary Kight, Assistant Adjutant General, California National Guard; Major General Dennis Lucas, Deputy Adjutant General, California Air National Guard; and Brigadier General Louis Antonetti, Director of the Joint Staff of the California Air National Guard.

"I appreciate Secretary McPherson's commitment to ensuring that California National Guard members receive the same opportunity to vote as other citizens," said Major General Wade. "It is the right thing to do for our young men and women who are committed to serving their fellow Californians."

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A California National Guard member also shared a testimonial of the importance of casting a vote while serving overseas.

In addition, Secretary McPherson announced a new e-mail address, MOV@ss.ca.gov, which members of the military can use from virtually anywhere in the world to ask questions about voting deadlines or their ballot.

Resources such as posters, news releases, and information will also be distributed to 20,000 embassies, foreign consulates, and military units through the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to inform California's overseas voters.

For more information about California's Military and Overseas Voting (MOV) resources for military, citizens living abroad, and their families, visit: www.ss.ca.gov.